

Official indoor base ball guide containing the constitution, 1903

SPALDING'S Official INDOOR BASE BALL GUIDE 1903

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GEORGE W. HANCOCK, " Father of Indoor Base Ball."

Constitution, By-Laws and Playing Rules

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INDOOR BASE BALL

INDOOR BASE BALL, INTRODUCTORY. The game of indoor base ball was invented in Chicago in 1887, and came about through a frolic among the members of the Farragut Club, who, in a spirit of fun on Thanksgiving day of that year, threw an ordinary boxing glove around the hall, which was struck at by one of the boys with a broom. Some twenty members had assembled, as usual on holidays, and George W. Hancock, seeing the possibility of a new sport, said in a bantering way: "' Say, boys, let's play base ball," and the wrestling mat was hauled around cornerwise and a broom obtained. One of the boxing gloves was used for a ball, and, with the boys in position, they commenced their sport without rule or wisdom, but there was great fun, and when the after. noon had closed Mr. Hancock gathered the members around him and unfolded a plan which had occurred to him as the players were sliding around the hall. "I believe this affair can be worked into a regular game' of base ball which can be played indoors, and if you all come down Saturday night I'll make up some rules and have a ball and bat which will suit the purpose of the sport and do no damage to the surroundings." It was thus that Mr. Hancock gained the title of " Father of Indoor Base Ball," for he went home and thought out some rules that

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would equalize the different points of the game and directed Augustus J. White how to make a ball which could be seen at night and fill all the requirements of the game. And so the sport was evolved.-

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G. B. MILLS, Vice-President Chicago Indoor Base Ball League.

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IMPLEMENTS OF THE GAME

IMPLEMENTS OF THE GAME. THE BALL. The ball will be found to possess properties of a peculiar nature, which, after careful experimenting, have been proved to be best adapted to the sport. It is of a compact substance, 17 inches in circumference, weighs 83Y ounces, has a white cover, and, while lively, it is so made as to do no damage to objects surrounding the field. THE BAT. The limit of size of the bat is 2% feet long and I5/ inches in diameter at the largest part. The weight is not limited, but the material used is wood possessing great strength, as acci- dents are liable to occur should the bat break. Bats of differ- ent qualities of wood are made so that selections as to style and weight may be made according to individual taste. THE BASES. The bases are half filled with sand or other heavy substance, so they will remain in place on the floor, unless grasped by the player in running or sliding to the base. They are made of white canvas, I1/ feet square, and are not attached to the floor, but placed loosely on a marked spot to which it should be returned whenever displaced. The home base is of rubber, one foot each way, and is also placed on a marked square. SUITS. Each club should be properly uniformed with natty suits, consisting of shirt, knee pants, stockings, belt, and shoes.

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INDOOR BASE BALL. 17 The pants should either be padded at the knees and hips, or the regular adjustable knee-pad used to prevent actual contact of these parts of the anatomy with the floor. SHOES. All shoes worn must have rubber soles; those with corru. gated rubber having been found the best. MATS. Where bases lie near a wall, padded mats should be stood up opposite, against which the players may strike when running or sliding.

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A TREATISE ON INDOOR BASE BALL

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INDOOR BASE BALL. 25 public likes to see plenty of stick work and they are hedging in the poor pitcher, who finds his work grow harder and harder as the years roll by. The successful pitcher of the present day must needs be a wonder, compared to the old-timer, who had easy marks in the days when the game was young. Increasing the size of the bat is some- thing that will prove beneficial, while cutting out the clause which called a foul

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bunt a strike will give the shorts something to do to live up to their reputations and add interest to the game, for there is nothing so exciting as to see a good bunter drop a twister near the plate and then see the shorts, pitcher and catcher scramble to get it while the batter is digging for first. The change in the system of scoring will enable the managers to get a better line on the men and find out the positions he has to strengthen. Taking it all in all, indoor base ball should increase fifty per cent. in popularity this season, not alone in Chicago, but the country at large. It's a great game and played by good fellows.

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CONSTITUTION

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(4) Offering, agreeing, conspiring or attempting to lose any game of ball, or failing to immediately expel any player who shall be proven guilty of offering, agreeing, conspiring or attempting to lose any game of ball, or of being interested in any wager thereon.

(5) Disbandment of its organization or team during the playing season. (6) Failing or refusing to comply with any lawful require- ment of the Executive Committee. (7) Wilfully violating any provision of the Constitution or the legislation or playing rules in pursuance thereof. ARTICLE IV. EXPULSION OF CLUBS AND OFFICERS. (1) To carry into effect the provision of Clause 6, Article III., of this Constitution, the facts in any case, covered by such sec- tion must be reported to the Secretary of the Association, who shall at once notify, by mail or telegraph, the party charged with the offense, inquiring whether any dispute exists as to the facts alleged. In case the facts are disputed, the Executive Committee shall, after due notice, try the case under such regulations as they may prescribe, and their finding shall be final and conclusive on all parties. (2) Any member holding a position in this Association, either as an officer or a member of a committee, who shall be charged in writing by three executive officers of this Associa- tion with

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malfeasance in office, or with conduct prejudicial to the interest of the Association, may be suspended by the President pending an investigation of the charge. (3) Any officer or member against whom charges have been preferred, as above, shall be furnished with a copy of the charge, and shall be heard in his own defense before the Executive Committee. And if found guilty of the charges preferred, may be reprimanded, suspended for a specified time, removed from his position or expelled from the Association.

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ORGANIZATION OF LEAGUES

ORGANIZATION OF LEAGUES. BY R. L. WELCH. Having each year received numerous inquiries on the proper steps to take to organize a league, and as to how a league should be conducted, I will attempt to give a few suggestions that I think will be of benefit to the inexperienced in these matters. Of course, the first step to be taken is to get the proper parties interested. Call a general meeting, elect temporary officers, appoint a committee to draw up a constitution, and also a press committee that will write up the affair and secure plenty of advertising. At the next meeting select the most desirable teams that apply for membership, aiming to get quality rather than quantity. Then adopt your constitution, elect officers, etc. A good idea would be to register with the secretary all the players of the various teams composing the league, and have the directors pass upon their eligibility. Be

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careful not to admit any one addicted to rowdy ball playing, as nothing will so quickly gain for a team a bad reputation or is more detrimental to the sport at large. *i As the game is an amateur sport, the practice of paying players for their services should be frowned upon, as the receipts do not waarrant salaried ball players, and only a wealthy club could afford to support such a team, and they would soon become tired of the con- tinual drain on their treasury. In a league where such practice would be allowed one or two of the wealthy clubs would gather together all the best talent in the town, and their teams would so far outclass the other teams of the league that the result would be to deaden the interest of both the public and the teams themselves.

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INDOOR BASE BALL. 37 Another point to which careful attention should be given is.the selection of officials. See that competent and impartial umpires.and scorers are secured, and that the scores are turned over to the secre- tary after each game, so that the average of the players can be kept, as they are very interesting to both the public and the players. See that the umpire gets the respect due him, back him up in his official acts, and do not countenance continual kicking by the players. Last, but not least, see that your .press committee keep the press supplied with information concerning the affairs of the league and secure advertising wherever possible. The following is practically a copy of the Constitution of the Chicago Cyclists' Indoor Base Ball League, and has worked smoothly for the past four or five years.

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CONSTITUTION AND BY-LAWS

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necessary for the government of the League on matters not determined by the By-Laws or special action of the League, and may enforce a due observance of the same by such actions as in the opinion of the Board of Directors the welfare of the League may render necessary or advisable. They shall have power to receive and act upon all resignations of members, officers, and directors. Any officer or director of the League desiring to resign shall present his resignation to the Board in writing. ARTICLE XII. PROTESTS. All protests shall be settled by an Arbitration Committee of five, to be appointed by the Board of Directors, and must not be connected with any team or club of this League. All protests must be in writing and in the hands of the Secretary within forty-eight (48) hours after the game. Protests must be accompanied by a fee of \$5.00. ARTICLE XIII. UMPIRES AND THEIR DUTIES. A staff of League umpires shall be selected by a chief of umpires (chief of umpires to be selected by the delegates), who will have full charge of same and direct them when and where to officiate, and shall pay them their salaries. He shall furnish umpires with proper credentials to show that they are duly authorized to officiate. (1) It shall be the duty of the umpire to enforce the rules as they are written, regardless of his personal opinion as to their merit. (2) The umpire is sole and absolute judge of play. In no instance (under penalty of fine, to be imposed by Arbitration Committee), shall any person, except the captians of the competing teams, be allowed to address him or question his decision, and they can only question him on an interpretation of the rules. No manager or any other officer of either club shall be permitted to go on the field or address

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the umpire under a penalty of a forfeiture of a game. (3) Before the commencement of a game, the umpire of the game shall see that the rules governing all the materials of the game are strictly observed.

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INDOOR BASE BALL.

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HANCOCK'S INDOOR BASE BALL RULES

HANCOCK'S INDO(R BASE BALL RULES AS REVISED ANI) ADOPTED BY THE national indoor Base Ball Association OF THE UNITED STATES RULE I. The diamond is laid at one end of the hall, leaving room for the catcher, who always plays close behind the batsman. The bases (except the home plate) are IXI feet square, made of can- vas, half filled with sand or other-similar substance. The home plate is of rubber and is one foot square. Each side of the diamond is 27 feet long, and a base is placed in each corner and need not be fastened to the floor. The distance from home to second base. and from first

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to third base, is 38 feet. The pitcher's box is 7 x 3 feet, with line drawn across box 18 inches from rear end, to be marked with chalk or some apparatus on the floor, the nearest line of said box to be 22 feet from the centre of home base. The batsman's box (one to the left and one to the right of the home base) shall be four feet long and three feet wide, extending one foot in front of and three feet behind a centre line through the home base, with its nearest side distant six inches from the home base, the outline- to be marked on the floor. RULE II. THE FOUL LINE. The foul lines must be drawn in straight lines from the outer corner of the home base, along the outer edge of the first and third bases to the boundaries of the ground, so that the bases shall come within the diamond.

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INDOOR BASE BALL. 10 (b) By special agreement between opposing captains this rule may be changed so as to make the pitcher deliver the ball with his rear foot on the back line of the box when in the act of delivering the ball-only one step to be taken, but he shall not be restricted as to curving the ball, though the arm must still be swung parallel with the body. RULE VII. I.ry~~~~~ *THE GAME. A game shall consist of nine innings to each contesting club, except that, if the side first at bat scores less runs in nine innings than the other side has scored in eight innings, the game shall then terminate; or, if the side last at bat in the ninth inning scores the winning run before the third man is out, the game shall terminate. RULE VIII. A TIE GAME. If the score be a tie at the end of nine innings to each side, play shall only be continued until the side first at bat shall have scored one or more runs than the other side in an equal number of innings, or until the other side shall score one or more runs than the side first at bat. RULE IX. A FORFEITED GAME. A forfeited game shall be declared by the umpire in favor of It, ~ ~ the club not in fault, at the request of such club, in the follow- ing cases: (a) If the nine of a club fail to appear upon the field,

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or being upon the field fails to begin the game within one minute after the umpire has called "play" at the hour appointed for the beginning of the game, unless such delay in appearing or in commencing the game be unavoidable. (b) If, after the game has begun, one side refuses or fails to continue playing, unless such game has been suspended or terminated by the umpire.

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RULE XX. STRIKES. (a) A strike is a ball struck at by the batsman without its touching his bat; or a foul tip caught. (b) A good ball, legally delivered by the pitcher, but not struck at by the batsman. RULE XXI. FOUL STRIKES. & A foul strike is a ball batted by the batsman when any part of his person is upon ground outside the lines of the batsman's position. RULE XXII. THE BATSMAN IS OUT. (a) The batsman is out if he bats out of his turn and makes a fair hit before the error is discovered. (b) If he fails to take his position within one minute after the umpire has called for the batsman. (c) If he makes a foul hit and the ball be held by a fielder before touching the ground or any wall or fixture. (d) If he makes a foul strike. (e) If he attempts to hinder the catcher from fielding the ball, or fouls the ball intentionally, evidently without effort to make a fair hit. (f) If, while the first base be occupied by the base-runner, he has three strikes, except when two men are already out. RULE XXIII. BASE RUNNING. The batsman becomes a base runner- (a) Instantly after he makes a fair hit. (b) Instantly after four balls .have been called by the umpire. (c) Instantly after three strikes. (d) Instantly after the umpire declares an illegal delivery of ball

by a pitcher. RULE XXIV. BASES TO BE TOUCHED. The base runner must touch each base in regular order, viz.:

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INDOOR BASE BALL. 71 RULE XXVII. RETURNING TO BASES. The base-runner shall return to his base, and shall be entitled to so return without being put out- (a) If the umpire declares a foul hit which is not legally caught by a fielder. (b) If the umpire declares a foul strike. (c) If the umpire declares a dead ball. (d) If the person or clothing of the umpire is struck by a ball thrown by the catcher to intercept a base-runner. (e) If he is called back by the umpire for starting too soon. RULE XXVIII. A BASE-RUNNER IS OUT. (a) If, having made a fair hit, while batsman, such fair hit ball be held by a fielder before touching the ground, wall or any fixture. (b) If he intentionally kicks or interferes with a ball he has just batted. If a ball he has just batted rebounds and hits him he shall not be declared out on that account. (c) If the third strike be caught before touching the ground or any object. (d) If, after three strikes or a fair hit, he be touched with the ball in the hands of a fielder before such base-runner touches first base. (e) If. after three strikes or a fair hit, the ball be securely held by a fielder while touching first base with any part of his person, before such base-runner touches first base. (f) If, in running from first to second base, from second to third base, or from third to home base, he runs more than three feet from a direct line between such bases to avoid being touched by a ball in the hands of a fielder; but in case a fielder be occupying a base-runner's proper path, attempting to field a batted ball, then the base-runner shall run out of the path and shall not be declared out for so doing.

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INDOOR BASE BALL. 77 (c) There shall be two umpires, who shall take suitable positions on the field for observing the plays which they are to judge. (d) No. 1 shall decide on and call all balls, strikes, blocks, dead balls, balks, illegal deliveries, fair and foul hits, ground hits, foul strikes, all questions arising at home plate, and shall call play or time, and shall take a position behind the catcher. (e) No. 2 shall judge all base plays excepting those at home plate and shall take a position about ten feet back of the base line, midway between home and first or home and third bases, or where he can best view the play. (f) The umpires shall be sole judges of the play, and discussion will only be allowed on correct interpretation of the rules and not on any optional decision. All such discussions are restricted to the two captains. (g) The two umpires shall change positions at the end of every full inning. Umpires shall not be chosen from the two clubs contesting. (h) In case an umpire for some reason cannot decide a play, he shall refer to his colleague. The umpires shall ask the captain of the home team whether there are any special ground rules to be enforced, and if there are, they shall see that they are duly enforced, provided they do not conflict with any of these rules. (i) The umpires must keep the contesting nines playing constantly from the commencement of the game to its termination, allowing such delays only as are rendered unavoidable by accident or injury. The umpires must, until the completion of the game, require the players of each side to promptly take their positions in the field as soon as the third man is put out, and must require the first batter of the opposite side to be in his position at the bat as soon as the fielders are in their places. RULE XXXV. CALLING "PLAY" AND "TIME." (a) The umpire designated as No. 1 must call "play"

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INDOOR BASE BALL. 79 promptly at the hour designated by the home club, and on the call of "play" the game must immediately begin. When he calls time," play must be suspended until he calls "play" again, and during the interim no player shall be put out, base be run or run be scored. The umpire shall suspend play only for an accident to himself or a player (but in case of accident to a fielder "time" shall not be called until the ball be returned to and held by the pitcher standing in his box). (b) " Time " must not be called for trivial causes. The practice of players suspending the game to discuss or contest a decision with either umpire is a gross violation of the rules and the umpire must not allow it. (c) If a player wilfully disobeys the cautions of the umpires in regard to violations of the rules he may, at the discretion of the umpires, be ordered out of the game and his place be filled, if such decision reduce the side to less than eight players. RULE XXXVI. SCORING. In order to promote uniformity in scoring, the following suggestions and definitions are made for the benefit of scorers, and they are required to make all scores in accordance therewith. SECTION I. The first item in the tabulated score, after the player's name and position, shall be the number of times he has been at bat during the game. No time at bat shall be scored if the batsman be given first base on called balls or on an illegal delivery of the ball by the pitcher. SEC. 2. In the second column shall be set down the number of hits made by each player. A hit should be scored in the following cases: When the ball from the bat strikes the ground within the foul lines and out of reach of the fielders. When a hit ball is partially or wholly stopped by a fielder in motion, but such player cannot recover himself in time to handle the ball before the striker reaches first base.

INDOOR BASE BALL.

INDOOR BASE BALL. 81 ~\ RULE XXXVII. SUMMARY. SECTION I. The score made in each inning of the game. SEC. 2. The number of two-base hits made by each player. SEC. 3. The number of three-base hits made by each player. SEC. 4. The number of home runs made by each player. SEC. 5. The number of hits made off each pitcher. SEC. 6. The number of times the pitcher strikes out the opposing batsmen. SEC. 7. The number of

times the pitcher gives bases on balls. SEC. 8. The number of wild pitches charged to the pitcher. SEC. 9. The number of passed balls by each catcher, SEC. IO. The time of the game. SEC. II. The names of the umpires,

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INDOOR BASE BALL AT EVANSVILLE

INDOOR BASE BALL AT EVANSVILLE HE Y. M. C. A. Indoor Base Ball Association of Evansville, Ind., was organized September, 1901, and a regular playing schedule adopted for the winter months consisting of twelve championship games, divided into two seasons of three months each. The league was composed of four clubs, the names and managers follow: Courier-Geo. W. Worthington. Hennessy-Robinson-A. H. Bond. Journal-News-W. W. Ross. Y. M. C. A.-A. L. Swanson. The finish of the first half-season's race was exciting, with standing given below: Clubs. Played. Won. Lost. Per cent. Y. M. C. A..... 6 5 . .833 Journal-News 6 4 2 .666 Hennessy-Robinson..... 6 2 4 .333 Courier..... 6 1 5 167 The box work of pitchers Herschberger of the Association team and Leaf of the Journal-News was especially fine, placing their clubs at the top. SECOND CHAMPIONSHIP RACE. The sensation of the day was sprung by Manager Geo. W. Worth- ington, who not only changed the name of his team, the Courier, but presented an entire new line-up under the name of the Records, who won every game. Great credit is due to Captain " Dick " Crozier, whose generalship was a big factor, and also Haley's invincible pitching.

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INDOOR BASE BALL FOR WOMEN

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INDOOR BASE BALL.

INDOOR BASE BALL.

88 INDOOR BASE BALL.. School, Chicago, have shown that it is successful in every way. Marked improvement in the physical condition of the players has resulted in every case. No one showed any of the effects resulting from over exertion. Girls bat well, and soon learn fielding. They throw easily overhanded and underhanded, and after a few weeks' practice develop considerable speed. The most difficult places to fill are usually the pitcher's and catcher's positions. Among several candidates, however, some one can be found possessing the requisite strength of arm and wrist for the pitcher's work. Such players may improve rapidly, and learn to pitch surprisingly swift balls. There are some natural catchers who receive the ball excellently, but it usually requires time to develop material for this position. Experienced players can learn to catch after a little practice unless they are afraid of the bat. As a result of the experiments in our high school, we have concluded that indoor base ball can be learned by young women, and that the game is instructive, entertaining and highly beneficial. Steps have been taken toward the organization of a league of Chicago and Cook County high schools. There is no reason why it cannot be successful. L. of C.

HOW TO TEACH GIRLS TO PLAY INDOOR BASE BALL

HOW TO TEACH GIRLS TO PLAY INDOOR BASE BALL BY Jos. CERMAK, Gymnastic Instructor, J. Medill High School. HE further we advance in teaching gymnastics the more we must recognize the importance of games in that branch of education called, "Physical Culture." Nay, we hear the voices of some of the most prominent physiologists and psychologists who claim that plays are the only ideal form of gymnastic exercises, whereby we can attain marvelous agility, strength, endurance, by which we cultivate self-control, self-reliance, those important faculties, which only enable us to be successful in our strenuous struggle for existence. Admitting all this, we naturally come to a question, what kind of games will bring us those satisfactory results ? Most decidedly those which the children like best-games which arouse pleasant feeling, which we play with joy, with

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enthusiasm-for such feeling alone is apt to stimulate the heart to a vigorous action and drive the blood and a new life through our whole system. And my long experience as a teacher of gymnastics convinced me that of all the games I have introduced, girls like indoor base ball the best. Fact is, that we shall find individual girls who do not like the game, but such girls are, as a rule, indifferent to any kind of game, to any kind of physical exercise. Everything is "too much like work" for them. But ninety per cent. of our girls, as soon as they learn the simple rudiments of base ball, play it with the same enthusiasm at the end of school year as at the beginning. It is a game which is developing all our bodily powers, a game in which mind must be just as quick as our body, is void of all danger of injury or strain, is a purely American game, and those are the chief reasons for which I have introduced it in our girls' classes, and, allow me to add, with success. The main problem a teacher encounters in introducing base ball in

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But that is not all. Pitching and playing for both sides is all right as far as it goes, but the more the girls know about the game. the more anxious they are to play it as it should be played, and, of course, with their own pitcher. And "there is a rub." You cannot have a good lively game if you have not a good pitcher in the box. How to find a girl who can play this important position? How to select a catcher, short-stops, basemen, fielders? It takes a little time, but by close observation of players you can in a short time divide the class into two regular teams and "line them up" according to the best abilities of different players. There are always short intermissions during the game and those afford a teacher an excellent opportunity to look for "talent." Standing in the pitcher's box, throw the ball to those who happen to be idle, and you by chance discover a good catcher, good baseman, or a good fielder. Ask the girls to send the ball back to you as fast as they can "underhand," or "overhand," and you easily discover the "coming pitcher." And before the school year is over you have a class divided in two teams, lined up and ready to play a lively game of base-ball whenever called upon. At the Medill High School almost every class of girls from the second year up is divided in two teams-sometimes, of course, with more

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fielders than is necessary-but the main object (after a regular lesson in gymnastics) to give them a good, interesting, lively game is obtained, and if they play only three innings, they get enough exercise out of it, while some classes become such experts in the game that very often they play five and even seven innings in 15 to 20 minutes. There are, however, some objectionable features in the game which must be eliminated if we wish to introduce it in the girls' classes. All kinds of "sliding," "blocking," "tripping," and all such "smart tricks" must be left out. Playing "such a ball" might perhaps help to win a game, but such game will not make our girls more refined, more gentle. As the girls in our high schools and colleges take more and more interest in indoor base ball, it would be well to modify the rules by proper authorities, as was done in the basket-ball. But care should be taken so as not to sacrifice all the interesting and scientific features of the game to the desire of "modification."

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